not provided any assistance to the next of kin of the victims at the stampede at the Mandhardevi temple in Satara district, Maharashtra. However, based on the proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra, financial assistance of Rs.19.50 lakhs @ Rs. 50,000 per persons has been given to the next of kin of 39 persons killed in the stampede, from the PM's National Reiief Fund.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Terrorism in NE States

†862. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have controlled the increasing incidents of terrorism in North Eastern States;

(b) the reasons for increase in the number of such incidents; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for prevention of these incidents alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The overal terrorist violence in the North East declined by about 19% in 2004 as compared to the previous year. The killing of civilians/security forces during this period snowed a decrease of 13.4%

(c) Government has taken various steps to prevent such incidents, which *inter alia* include deployment of Army and Central Paramilitary Forces, coordinated action by the security forces for counter insurgency operations, modernization/upgradation of the State Police Forces, reimbursement of security related expenditure and declaration of militant organizations as 'uniawfui associations'. Government has also extended an invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks. Socio economic development programmes have also been intensified.

Seizure of uranium

863. SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enriched Uranium was found with a few people in Izzatnagar (district-Bareilly), Uttar Pradesh State; and

(b) if so, what are the details and the action taken thereon?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Two persons were arrested on December 5, 2004 by Bareilly Police with a 1 Kg metal package. The metal package contained Uranium. However, the Uranium on examination by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was found to be depleted Uranium with very low concentration of fissile Uranium, which does not pose any security threat or any significant radiation/health hazard. The piece is now in the custody of the AERB. The State Government has filed a criminal case against the culprits.

Headquarter of banned militant outfit in Jammu and Kashmir

864. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the headquarters of banned militant outfit named as Jaish-e-Mohammed is located in concrete bunkers, deep in the mountains of Tral-dechigam-Dara hills in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the security forces verified the information given by the captured militant Sajjad Ahmed Butt, that these bunkers were equipped with heavy weaponry including anti-aircraft guns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Available reports do not indicate presence of concrete bunkers with heavy weaponry including anti aircraft guns in Tral-Dachigam-Dara Hills in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the presence of terrorists in remote and inaccessible areas of this hilly track cannot be ruled out.

(c) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have been laying ambushes and patrolling deep in this hilly terrain regularly. Besides, an additional battalion of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) has been deployed in the area to dominate the ridges and neutralize any terrorist present there.

Criteria to confer national awards

865. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the gudelines/ criteria for selection of the people for conferment of 'Padma Shri' and other such national awards;